



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

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Fani Willis acknowledges a 'personal relationship' with prosecutor she hired in Trump's Georgia case

By KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis acknowledged in a court filing on Friday having a "personal relationship" with a special prosecutor she hired for the Georgia election interference case against former President Donald Trump but argued there are no grounds to dismiss the case or to remove her from the prosecution. Willis hired special prosecutor Nathan Wade in November 2021 to assist her investigation into whether the Republican ex-president and others broke any laws as they tried to overturn his loss in the 2020 presidential election in Georgia. Since Trump and 18 others were indicted in August, Wade has led the team of lawyers Willis assembled to prosecute the case.

Among the acts listed in the indictment was a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call in which Trump urged fellow Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to help "find" the 11,780 votes needed to overturn his election loss to Democrat Joe Biden. Trump has pleaded not guilty, and his attorneys have said he was within his rights to challenge election results.

The filing was the first time that Willis or Wade has directly addressed the allegations of a relationship in the nearly four weeks since they first surfaced in a filing by a defendant in the election case. In an affidavit accompanying the filing, Wade said that in 2022, he and the district attorney had developed a personal relationship in addition to their "professional association and friendship."

But he also said that he had never lived with Willis or shared a financial account or household expenses with her. He said that none of the funds paid to him as part of the job have been shared with Willis, an attempt to undercut defense lawyer claims of a conflict of interest.

Wade described himself and Willis as "both financially



Special prosecutor Nathan Wade speaks during a motions hearing for former President Donald Trump's election interference case, Jan. 12, 2024 in Atlanta.

Associated Press



Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis speaks in the Fulton County Government Center Aug. 14, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

independent professionals; expenses or personal travel were roughly divided equally between us."

"At times," Wade said, "I have made and purchased travel for District Attorney Willis and myself from my personal funds. At other times District Attorney Willis has made and purchased travel for she and I from her personal funds."

"I have no financial interest in the outcome of the 2020 election interference case or in the conviction of any defendant," he wrote.

The Friday filing by Willis' team came in response to a motion filed last month by defense attorney Ashleigh Merchant, who represents Trump co-defendant Michael Roman. The motion

alleged that Willis and Wade were in an inappropriate romantic relationship that created a conflict of interest. It said Willis personally profited from the case, saying she had paid Wade more than \$650,000 for his work and then benefited when Wade used his earnings to pay for vacations the pair took together.

Roman asked the judge to dismiss the case and to have Willis and Wade and their offices barred from further prosecuting the case. Trump and at least one other co-defendant, Georgia attorney Robert Cheeley, have filed motions to join Roman's effort to dismiss the indictment and remove Willis from the case.

Fulton County Superior Court

Judge Scott McAfee, who's presiding over the election case, has set a Feb. 15 hearing on Roman's motion. Willis and Wade are among a dozen witnesses Merchant has subpoenaed to testify at that hearing, and Friday's filing says the district attorney plans to ask McAfee to toss out those subpoenas.

The Friday filing asks McAfee to dismiss the motions without a hearing, saying they "have no merit."

Steve Sadow, Trump's lead attorney in the Georgia case, said Willis is asking the judge "to turn a blind eye to her alleged personal and financial misconduct" and says her only goal is to stop the Feb. 15 hearing. Though she admitted to the relationship, Sadow said, "she fails to provide full transparency and necessary financial details."

Merchant did not immediately respond to a text message seeking comment Friday afternoon.

Willis' team's filing argues that Willis has no financial or personal conflict of interest that justifies removing her or her office from the case. The filing calls the allegations "salacious" and says they "garnered the media attention they were designed to obtain."

Anthony Michael Kreis, a Georgia State University law professor who's been following the case, said this was "as strong a response as she could have made," noting that the filing acknowledged the relationship, explained the timing and addressed the financial issues.

"I'm just left with the question of why did they not respond sooner," he said. "As a legal matter, I think it's done. As a political matter, it still seems a little messy."

Trump and other critics of Willis have capitalized on allegations about the relationship between Willis and Wade, using them to try to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the case. The former president has also accused Willis—and the prosecutors in three other criminal cases against him—of engaging in political attacks as he ap-

pears poised to become the 2024 Republican nominee for president.

Willis, an elected Democrat, is up for reelection this year. The personal relationship with Wade does seem to contradict a statement she said while running to become district attorney in 2020. During an appearance on public access television, she said, "I certainly will not be choosing people to date that work under me, let me just say that."

Roman's motion questions Wade's qualifications to be involved in a complex prosecution under Georgia's anti-racketeering law.

The response from the district attorney fiercely defended Wade's qualifications to lead the prosecution team, saying he "has long distinguished himself as an exceptionally talented litigator with significant trial experience."

Exhibits attached to the filing include pictures of awards Wade has received over the years for his legal work. Willis also attached Facebook posts from Merchant in 2016 supporting Wade's campaign to become a Cobb County Superior Court judge. In one post, Merchant described Wade as "ethical" and said he has "demonstrated his ability to be fair and impartial."

During an address at a historic Black church in Atlanta about a week after Roman's motion was filed, Willis suggested that questioning of Wade's qualifications and her decision to hire him was rooted in racism.

In joining Roman's motion, Trump attorney Steve Sadow had accused her of inappropriately injecting racism into the case. Willis' filing in response says her public comments were "well within all legal and ethical rules and guidelines."

Sadow rejected that, saying, "Apparently, the DA believes she can make public out-of-court statements about race, this case, and the defendants whenever she wants, and the Court is powerless to punish her by disqualification." □

Punxsutawney Phil predicts an early spring at Groundhog Day festivities

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP)

— Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring on an overcast Friday morning at Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania, the scene of the largest and best-known Groundhog Day celebration in the United States.

The annual event is a tongue-in-cheek ritual in which Phil's handlers, members of a club with roots in the late 19th century, reveal whether the groundhog has seen his shadow. Just after sunrise Friday, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club announced Phil did not see his shadow, which will usher in early springlike weather. The groundhog seeing his shadow presages six more weeks of winter, according to the group.

Before the announcement, President Tom Dunkel, in the traditional top hat and tuxedo worn by the club's inner circle, explained that his cane, handed down from previous presidents, including his father, gave him the power to speak "Groundhog-ese" and that Phil would tell him which of two scrolls to use. At Dunkel's direction, the crowd helped fire-up the groundhog with repeated



Groundhog Club handler A.J. Dereume holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, during the 138th celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., Friday, Feb. 2, 2024.

Associated Press

chants of "Phil!" before a club member pulled the groundhog from a door in a stump on the stage and held it aloft.

Dunkel and other club members leaned over the stump where the groundhog sat before Dunkel pointed to one of two scrolls with the cane and announced that they had

a decision.

Vice President Dan McGinley read the decision, written in verse and filled with quips about the groundhog's envy for humans' opposable thumbs and hopes to garner some Punxsutawney Phil write-in votes in 2024, from the chosen scroll and announced, "Glad tidings on this Groundhog

Day, an early spring is on the way!"

About 10,000 people have made their way in recent years to Punxsutawney, where festivities begin in the dead of night and culminate in the midwinter forecast. A bundled-up crowd, some wearing groundhog-themed hats, watched musical perfor-

mances and fireworks as they waited for sunrise and the appearance of Punxsutawney Phil.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro took the stage before Phil to urge people around the world watching the festivities to come to Punxsutawney next year. Shapiro also announced the famed groundhog is the new official meteorologist for Pennsylvania.

"Punxsutawney is the center of the universe right now and I love that you're all here," Shapiro said.

Phil predicts more winter far more often than he sees an early spring, not a bad bet for February and March in western Pennsylvania. A federal agency took a look at his record last year and put his accuracy rate at about 40%.

As the morning progressed, something like a groundhog consensus emerged, backing Punxsutawney Phil's prognostication of an early spring. Among more than a dozen reports of weather predicting groundhogs in the U.S. and Canada early Friday, 10 were on Phil's side and just three warned of six more weeks of winter. □

U.S. will resume Peace Corps program in Palau as it moves to counter Chinese influence in Indo-Pacific

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will resume a long-suspended Peace Corps program in the North Pacific island of Palau as the Biden administration continues moves to counter growing Chinese influence in the region.

The Peace Corps said Friday that it would start sending volunteers back to the island in 2025 following an agreement reached between the agency's director and Palau's president, whose country is one of the few in the world to have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. "Volunteers will live

and work side-by-side with community partners to improve childhood literacy and math and science skills, along with teaching English as a foreign language," Peace Corps director Carol Spahn said in a statement. Palau's president, Surangel Whipps, said the return of the Peace Corps reflects the strong relationship between his nation and the United States. He said prior Peace Corps members had become "an integral part of our national family," and he extended his gratitude to them and to a program he said "has enriched our country in countless ways." "To those Peace Corps

members preparing to come and contribute to Palau," Whipps said, "welcome home."

The Peace Corps programs in Palau and in the Federated States of Micronesia began in 1966 but were shut down in 2014 after more than 4,400 volunteers had served there.

Since then, as China has made successful inroads in the Pacific, successive U.S. administrations have sought to improve relations with the island nations, including by opening or reopening several embassies and renegotiating cooperation agreements known as compacts of free

association last year with Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

Palau is among the 12 countries that still recognize

Taiwan's statehood and do not have diplomatic relations with Beijing, which considers Taiwan to be part of Chinese territory. □



This June 20, 2009, file photo shows the Palau Capital building in Melekeok, Palau.

Associated Press

'Pineapple Expresses' and rising seas are battering California's piers, threatening iconic landmarks

By JULIE WATSON and HAVEN DALEY
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — More storms, rising seas and huge waves are taking their toll on California's iconic piers that have dotted the Pacific coast since the Gold Rush, posing the biggest threat yet to the beach landmarks that have become a quintessential part of the landscape.

At least a half dozen public piers are closed after being damaged repeatedly by storms with multiple atmospheric rivers hitting the state over the past year. Repair costs have climbed into the millions of dollars.

Among those shuttered is the pier in Capitola built in 1857 that predates the northern California town and is a popular spot to watch passing whales and dolphins. Another damaged by storms in San Diego, the Ocean Beach pier, offers a bird's eye view of surfers carving waves below.

More damage is possible this year with El Nino, which is expected to bring additional storms to California caused by the temporary warming of parts of the Pacific that changes weather worldwide. Back-to-back atmospheric rivers began drenching California this week, causing flooded roads, toppled trees and traffic accidents. The second "Pineapple Express" called that because the plume of moisture stretches back across the Pacific to near Hawaii was forecast to arrive as early as Saturday night and unleash a more powerful storm.

City engineers are looking at redesigning piers to withstand bigger surf with a rise in sea levels. Others face relocation or removal.

"We are very much in a changed environment," said Mike Beck, director of the Center for Coastal Climate Resilience at the University of California, Santa Cruz. "And we're not going to be able to rebuild back



Large waves crash along the Southern California coast near the Ventura Pier in Ventura, Calif. on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

in the same places and in the same ways that we did before. We're going to have to think more clearly about how we design and where we put these."

Most piers have undergone major repairs after enduring everything from fires to erosion. But officials say they are now being damaged at an unprecedented rate.

Waves rising to heights topping 20-feet (6-meters) in late December pummeled the 855-foot-long (260.6-meter) Capitola Wharf in Santa Cruz County, only months after Pineapple Express-fueled storms in January 2023 collapsed a large section. The Capitola Wharf is a pier by nautical standards since it runs perpendicular to the shore, versus a traditional wharf running parallel.

San Diego's Ocean Beach pier, a nearly 2,000-foot (609.6-meter) concrete structure built in 1966, has been repeatedly battered since 2019. The pier was still undergoing repairs after beatings from high surf that closed it twice last year when a monster swell in January wiped away a piling.

The city is exploring re-

placing the structure after spending more than \$1.7 million in fixes over the past five years. It has secured \$8.4 million in state funds for a new one. Among the three proposed designs is one with interconnected pathways, giving it a different look.

California's state park service demolished the 93-year-old pier at Seaside State Beach near Aptos in Santa Cruz County after a January 2023 storm surge smashed it in half.

Communities are grappling with whether they can afford to keep their piers, which will need taller and stronger pilings that could make their historic look more industrial, Beck said. But those are tough conversations for many who consider the piers almost sacred.

"It's sometimes a little bit of a funny thing here in California, the way that we love our piers," he said. For generations, the structures have provided families, fishers, tourists and others a peaceful place to experience the ocean without getting wet.

In Ventura, west of Los Angeles, the Visitors & Convention Bureau waxes po-

etic about the pier built in 1872 that it calls the city's centerpiece.

"Walk Ventura's beaches and, in the distance, it wavers like a child's matchstick project," the bureau states on its website. "Sit on the sand at its base (on a calm day) and it whispers a lovely song any ocean (and pier) lover knows."

California's oldest piers served steamships and were lifelines for settlements to get lumber, bricks and cement with much of the coast decades from being reached by a railroad. Piers were later built for tourism like the Santa Monica pier, which has an amusement park with the world's first solar-powered Ferris Wheel. In December, Ventura's pier already was undergoing repairs from the January 2023 storms when the monster swell that damaged San Diego's pier around New Year's eve also wiped away or damaged 19 pilings supporting Ventura's pier.

Rising sea levels from global warming is causing the waves to be bigger off California's coast, according to research. The coast is also seeing some of the highest tides of the season.

"We're really seeing the confluence of all these factors coming together. And that's going to keep happening," Beck said. "And here in an El Nino year as well, we also see increases in sea levels, even over and above the kinds of increases that we predict long term with sea level rise."

During a visit to Capitola last year to assess California's widespread storm damage, President Joe Biden said global warming is challenging rebuilding efforts.

Capitola's Public Works Director Jessica Kahn said climate change was taken into account for its \$8 million pier project slated for completion this fall.

"The city went over many iterations and different designs and different tactics to make the wharf more resilient and finally settled on widening the wharf," she said, adding that the narrow part of the trestle will go from three to six pilings. The new pilings also will have the ability to be raised as sea levels go up.

Kahn said she has no doubt it is worth investing millions to preserve a relic of the past whose sole purpose today is for pleasure, given the number of memories soaked into the wooden wharf.

"When we had our damage here this past January of 2023, you would not believe the amount of phone calls we got. We got obviously from people nearby, but from people who come here annually, people who are out of the country," she said.

Over the years, Inge Jechart has spent time on the pier gazing down at schools of anchovies being chased by seals as birds circle overhead.

As it undergoes repairs, she now stands on a bluff to watch the crews.

"I think they're going to do a great job."

Yes, we're having stronger storms, and the weather is changing. □

U.S. lawmakers call on Hungarian leader Viktor Orbán to immediately approve Sweden's NATO membership

By JUSTIN SPIKE
Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) —

A bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers are urging Hungary to immediately ratify Sweden's application to join NATO, saying patience with the Central European country is "wearing thin" as it continues to delay its approval for the Nordic nation.

Hungary is the only country in the 31-nation military alliance that hasn't yet backed Sweden's membership bid, and frustration has mounted within NATO as Budapest has repeatedly pushed back a vote on ratification for more than a year.

In a joint statement released Thursday, U.S. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen, a New Hampshire Democrat, and Thom Tillis, a North Carolina Republican, called on Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to "advance Sweden's accession protocols to NATO without further delay," and said continuing to hold up the process would



Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico, right, talks to Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán during a round table meeting at an EU summit in Brussels, Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024.

Associated Press

harm Budapest's relations with its allies.

"Despite its numerous prior public commitments, Hungary is the last remaining NATO member to have not ratified Sweden's bid and both time and patience

are wearing thin. Hungary's inaction risks irrevocably damaging its relationship with the United States and with NATO," the senators wrote.

Orbán, a staunch nationalist that has led Hun-

gary since 2010, has long promised that his country wouldn't be the last NATO member to approve Sweden's application. But as Turkey's parliament voted to back Stockholm's bid in January, attention has shift-

ed to Budapest as NATO members seek to expand the alliance amid Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

A vote on the protocols for Sweden's NATO accession hasn't yet appeared on the Hungarian parliament's agenda, and the matter is unlikely to go before lawmakers until at least late February when the parliament reconvenes.

In a separate statement, U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, a Maryland Democrat and chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, raised the prospect of imposing sanctions on Hungary for its conduct, and called Orbán "the least reliable member of NATO."

Cardin said that the Biden administration should examine whether Hungary should continue to participate in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, which allows passport holders from 41 countries to enter the United States for business or tourism without a visa for up to 90 days. □

U.N. expert says more needs to be done to address human rights abuses in the Philippines

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —

The government of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has taken steps to address human rights abuses in the country, in-

cluding the killings of journalists and rights activists, a U.N. expert said Friday. However, more needs to be done, she said, including ensuring accountability. The remarks by United Nations Special Rapporteur Irene Khan came at the end of a nearly two-week visit at the invitation of the government to assess rights conditions in the Philippines, where she met with officials and activists, as well as a detained journalist. Khan said she underscored the need for the Marcos administration to seek justice for rights victims under his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte.

Watchdog groups had described Duterte's term as a "human rights calamity" due to widespread violations, including the killings of thousands of mostly poor suspects in a brutal anti-drugs crackdown. The International Criminal Court is investigating the killings as a potential crime against humanity.

"These are all positive sig-

nals, but they are not sufficient to turn the page decisively on the past," Khan said at a news conference in Manila.

"Tackling the grave and deep-seated human rights problems of the Philippines ... will require more fundamental and sustained reforms and also a clear commitment to accountability," Khan said.

She cited U.N. figures saying that at least 81 past killings of journalists in the Philippines have not been investigated and remain unresolved.

With four journalists separately being killed since Marcos took office in 2022, "the trend remains disturbing," she said. The justice department in Manila was prosecuting suspects in three of the killings and an

investigation was underway in the fourth case, she added.

"The killing of journalists is the most egregious form of censorship," Khan said, adding that the Philippines "remains a dangerous country for journalists."

Khan urged Marcos' government to abolish its task force overseeing a campaign to end a decades-old communist insurgency, one of the longest-running in the world, and also appealed against the policy of "red-tagging," a practice by authorities to link activists with armed insurgents.

Since 1969, the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, have fought successive Philippine governments. □



United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression Irene Khan talks during a press conference in Mandaluyong, Philippines on Friday Feb. 2, 2024.

Associated Press

A fire set off by a gas explosion in Kenya kills at least 3 people and injures 280 others

By TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Liquid petroleum gas cylinders exploded in an illegal depot in a residential area of the Kenyan capital, officials said Friday, setting off a late-night inferno that killed at least three people and injured 280 others. The death toll was expected to rise.

The depot in Nairobi had twice been demolished, and the owner had been found guilty of operating an illegal gas refilling business in May, but continued to do business, officials said. That raised suspicions in a country where corruption is endemic that bribes were paid to ignore the operation. At least 24 people were critically injured, the Kenya Red Cross said, after a huge fireball erupted from the gas depot and rapidly spread, burning homes and warehouses. Some gas cylinders were thrown hundreds of meters (yards), sparking separate fires in the neighborhood. The Petroleum Institute of East Africa said a magistrates' court sentenced the owner of the illegal depot



A man inspects a gas depot at the scene of an explosion in Nairobi, Kenya, Friday, Feb. 2, 2024.

Associated Press

to a year in prison or a fine of \$3,076. That was despite a precedent set by Kenya's High Court in which those found guilty of operating an illegal gas facility should be sentenced to a minimum of five years in prison or a fine of at least \$61,500. Despite the law providing for mandatory forfeiture, the magistrate also released all motor vehicles, including two liquid petroleum gas tankers, together

with confiscated LPG that had a net weight of 4,660 kilograms (more than 10,000 pounds), the PIEA said. The institute said one of the tankers that was "unprocedurally released" was involved in the explosions and fire that broke out. "The proprietor continued operating the illegal storage and refilling facility without even the bare minimum safety standards and qualified LPG personnel as

required by law leading to this unfortunate catastrophe which could have been avoided should the letter and spirit of the law have been followed," it said.

Local resident Charles Minge said "the government knew this liquid petroleum gas plant was existing in a residential area but they did nothing."

"They should make sure this doesn't happen again," he

said.

Witnesses said they heard a sound they suspected was gas leaking before at least two explosions and the fire, which broke out at around 11:30 p.m. local time Thursday. Cellphone videos taken by witnesses showed the fireball erupting right next to apartment buildings. People were heard screaming.

Many residents were likely inside their homes when the fire reached their houses in the Mradi area of the Nairobi neighborhood of Embakasi, government spokesman Isaac Mwaura said.

A gas cylinder sent flying through the air set off a fire that burned down a nearby garment and textile warehouse, he said. Several other vehicles and businesses were damaged by the blaze.

At the scene after day-break, houses and shops were burned out. The roof of a four-story residential building about 200 meters (650 feet) from the scene of the explosion was broken by another flying gas cylinder. Electrical wiring lay on the ground. □

Norway expects landslides, avalanches and heavy rain after the worst storm in over 30 years

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Authorities in Norway issued several landslide and avalanche warnings for the southern part of the country Friday as it continued to get hammered by bad weather that officials said also might close roads in the north at short notice.

Flights to and from the airport in the Arctic city of Tromsø resumed Friday after some 200 passengers had to sleep there due to the gale-force winds and snow from Norway's most powerful storm since 1992. The Norwegian Meteorological Institute said strong

winds still were blowing over northern Norway. It warned that southern Norway was forecast to get up to 100 millimeters (4 inches) of rain within 24 hours.

The Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate issued its highest-level avalanche warning for most of southern and central Norway for the coming days.

Police in southeastern Norway reported several accidents because of icy surfaces, included a school bus that skidded off the road. No one was injured. The storm, named Ingunn by Norwegian meteorolo-

gists, arrived Wednesday and brought gusts of up to 180 kilometers per hour (112 mph) in some places on Thursday. Strong wind, rain and snow ripped off roofs, canceled flights and left thousands without power. Norwegian Meteorological Institute meteorologist Eldbjørg Moxnes told Norwegian news agency NTB on Friday that while the extreme weather Ingunn brought was over, "it will still not be a calm weekend on the weather front."

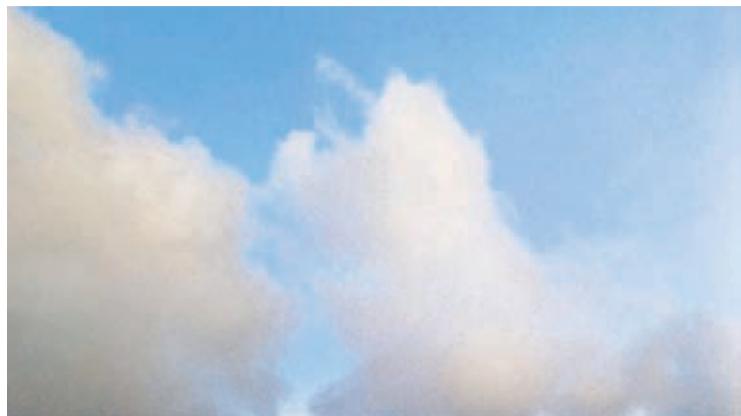
Strong winds and rain are also expected in neighboring Sweden and Denmark over the weekend. □



Boats in the harbour of Bodø, Northern Norway, during extreme weather, Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024.

Associated Press

Aruba hosting a special guest: Saharan dust



ORANJESTAD — You might have noticed since yesterday that Aruba's usually blue, sunny skies are covered behind a layer of dusty-looking clouds. This phenomenon occurs yearly and affects the Caribbean, including the Dutch islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao.



Saharan dust is carried by winds from the Sahara Desert in North Africa all the way across the ocean to the Caribbean. The Saharan dust is an aeolian mineral dust from the Sahara desert, which is the largest hot desert in the world. The Sahara is the largest source of aeolian dust in the world, and is often produced by natural processes like wind storms, and doesn't appear to be heavily impacted by human activities.

Caribbean Weather Watch informed this week that "the first mass of Saharan dust of the year has reached the eastern Caribbean as well as the ABC islands. This mass will be more prominent this weekend



before dissipating by early next week. The presence of the mass is causing whitish skies and lower visibility."

The dusty air can also cause problems for people

with allergies or respiratory illness, so it is important to take this into account. Ways to avoid the negative effects of the Saharan dust include staying indoors and limiting exposure. □

Carnival Schedule



ORANJESTAD — Carnival is in full-swing in Aruba for the next two weeks, which will culminate with a weekend of back-to-back parades on the streets! Do not miss the most important upcoming events.

Carnival Schedule

Saturday 03 February:

Jouvert Morning in San Nicolas starting at 3am;
Lighting Parade in Oranjestad starting at 8pm.

Sunday 04 February:

Children's Parade in San Nicolas starting at 2pm;
Burning of Momito at Aruba Carnival & Entertainment Village starting at 7pm.

Wednesday 07 February:

Lighting Parade in San Nicolas starting at 8pm.

Friday 09 February:

School Parade in Oranjestad starting 10am;
School Parade in San Nicolas starting 10am.

Sunday 11 February:

Grand Parade in Oranjestad starting at 10am;
Burning of the Momo at Aruba Harbour Arena starting at 7pm.

Monday 12 February:

Carnival Monday.

Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive?

Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram

and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Tony & Linda who are visiting from Manhasset, New York. They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is our second home! We are here now for our 43rd consecutive year! We have been here over 50 times! Over the years we have introduced Aruba to our family and friends!"

They have all loved the experience and have continued to comeback! The PEOPLE, the WEATHER, and the RESTAURANTS provide everyone with a relaxing and enjoyable experience!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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Behind The Mask | Juan Valdez Café | Baskin-Robbins

The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique

Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa

Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors

The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar

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Come and experience the Lighting Parade tonight!

(Oranjestad)—Tonight at 8:00 pm, Aruba will once again come together and enjoy this year's edition of Lighting Parade in the downtown area. Starting from the Avenida Millo Croes street, working its way up to the Renaissance Market Place, the Lighting Parade includes colorful lights, carnival music and of course, the carnival spirit!

Brief history of the Aruban carnival

In the 1920's the first carnival events were organized by social clubs that started private costume and masquerade parties. The first grand parade took place in 1955, and this year's carnival celebration is an especially big one, as it marks the 70th anniversary of carnival here on the island. For the islanders it is a way to express their creativity and break away from the daily buzz of life. Dancing to the rhythm of local soca music while enjoying the ambiance of the public are some of the ingredients of this festival. Oranjestad and San Nicolas are the stages for this display of unique designed costumes, amazing ambience and upbeat, local music. The festival is for everybody accessible and safe to visit.

Since we are reaching the end of the carnival season, these last few upcoming parades are especially important—and are most favored by locals. One of them includes the Jouvert Morning Parade, a unique parade in the carnival season, as it only includes the participation of

locals, dancing and singing behind a huge truck playing Soca music. Jouvert Morning took place early this morning around 3am till sun rise.

If you missed it, don't worry; tonight there will be another parade to enjoy from: the Lighting Parade in Oranjestad (down town). This year's line-up at the Lighting Parade includes nine Carnaval groups—TOB, Infinity, Royal, Empire, Champagne, Dushi, Los Laga Bai, OPC and Colours—all accompanied by parade walkers adorned in their beautiful, themed costumes, dancing to the sound of live Soca music.

Behind the screens there is an enormous organization that makes sure that this festival runs smoothly. The police, inspection department, Red Cross volunteers, garbage service and many others work day and night to make sure that carnival is a success. All the trailers are being carefully inspected before they are allowed to participate as well as the vehicles that pull them. The parades will also include a medical emergency stand too. After each parade the streets are being cleaned and road blocks are being taken away so next day normal traffic flow occurs. The several organizations and institutions work together with the official carnival organization SMAC.

So bring a chair, your friends and family, a few drinks and snacks, and be a part of what makes the Aruban culture so vibrant! □



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Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous "Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea



glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is



broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor

parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink"

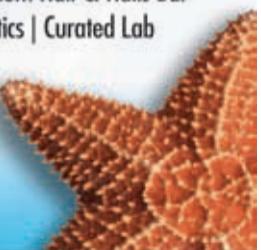
bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



Episode C -100 Musical Instruments



We want to start this 100th episode by thanking and celebrating the opportunity that Aruba Today has given Etnia Nativa to transmit and share culture through our weekly space and as in any celebration there are musical instruments, today we want to share with you our dear followers and tell you regarding one special music instrument that occupies a special place: "Charango".

We know that healing through sound dates back thousands of years and those music remediated illnesses and revived the spirit since sound is a vibration and everything in life is made up of vibrating atoms. Depending on the instrument we listen to, we can be influenced at the cellular level by the transmitted vibrations. Some instruments help us move from what are known as "beta brain wave patterns", or those associated with concentration, anxiety and struggle, to calmer frequencies known as "Brain waves associated with relaxation (Alpha), meditation (Theta) and trance-like states (Delta).

Let's go back to our beloved charango!

When the Spanish conquistadors came to South America, they brought the vihuela (an ancestor of the classical guitar) with them. The charango may have evolved from the vihuela, bandurria (mandolin), or the lute. Experts "charanguistas", have noted characteristics of the charango in various vihuelas and guitars of the 16th century, and maintains that the charango is the direct descendant of the vihuela.

The charango originated from the Quechua and Aymara peoples, but only after the Spanish introduced stringed instruments. The charango was traditionally made with dried armadillo shells better known as quirquincho (a very common animal in the Andes Mountains) for the backs and wood as front cover for the sound box. Even though the charango is traditionally made with the armadillo shell, today it is also common to make charango's completely out of wood. The charango traditionally is used and played in Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Peru. The charango is 66cms (22 inches) long and is usually made from wood and the shell of an armadillo. The char-

ango typically has 10 strings (5 sets of 2 strings strung very close together) but can have up to 20 strings. The first story says that the native peoples loved the sound of the Vihuela (an ancestor of the classic guitar). However, they lacked the knowledge and technology to make the vihuela.

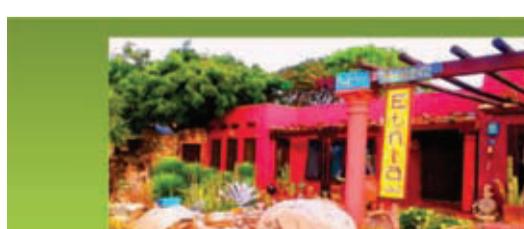
So they made it with what they had available (armadillo shells). Another story says that the Spaniards prohibited natives from practicing their ancestral music, and that the charango was a successful attempt to make a lute that could be easily hidden under a garment such as a poncho. It's believed the charango came into its present form in the early 18th century in the city of Potosí in the Royal Audiencia of Charcas part of the Viceroyalty of Peru (in what is present-day Bolivia), probably from Amerindian contact with Spanish settlers. Because the modern countries of Peru and Bolivia had not yet been established at the time, it



is difficult to trace the charango's origin to a specific country, and the issue remains highly debated. The first published historic information on the charango may be that gathered by Vega, going back to 1814, when a cleric from Tupiza documented that "the Indians used with much enthusiasm the guitarrillos mui fuis... around here in the Andes of Bolivia they called them Charangos". Curios of the Latin America History is when in 1973 Chilean the top military organized a meeting with folk musicians where it was explained that the traditional instruments charango and quena were now banned and totally prohibit.



To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. □



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to the high rise hotels



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then re-located to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When you're planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Frisco

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11 Eat away areas

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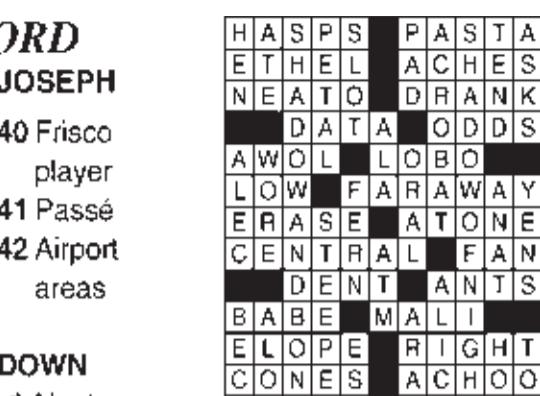
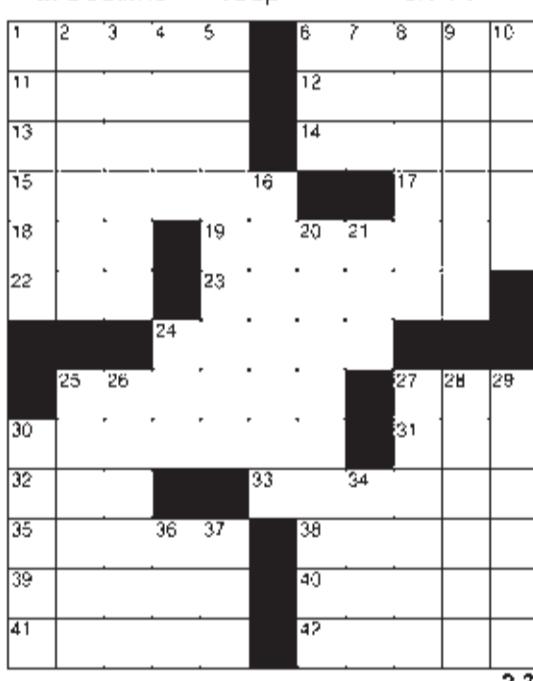
33 Kicks off

35 Gold unit

38 Fuming

39 Chosen

few

**Yesterday's answer**

2-3

A X Y D I L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-3

CRYPTOQUOTE

S K B Z B F Z B E P R H S A E V B F V E P V

— A C P S B Z F P N G F V B G F R R . —

G C R R M B B L X

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I STILL BELIEVE THAT LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED. I DON'T KNOW A BETTER MESSAGE THAN THAT. — PAUL McCARTNEY

Why Apple is pushing the term 'spatial computing' along with its new Vision Pro headset

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

With Apple's hotly anticipated Vision Pro headset hitting store shelves Friday, you're probably going to start to see more people wearing the futuristic goggles that are supposed to usher in the age of "spatial computing."

It's an esoteric mode of technology that Apple executives and their marketing gurus are trying to thrust into the mainstream while avoiding other more widely used terms such as "augmented reality" and "virtual reality" to describe the transformative powers of a product that's being touted as potentially monumental as the iPhone that came out in 2007. "We can't wait for people to experience the magic," Apple CEO Tim Cook gushed Thursday while discussing the Vision Pro with analysts.

The Vision Pro also will be among Apple's most expensive products at \$3,500 a price point that has most analysts predicting the company may only sell 1 million or fewer devices during its first year. But Apple only sold about 4 million iPhones during that device's first year on the market and now sells more than 200 million of them annually, so there is a history of what initially appear to be a niche product turning into something that becomes enmeshed in how people live and work.

If that happens with the Vision Pro, references to spatial computing could



The Apple Vision Pro headset is displayed in a showroom on the Apple campus after its unveiling on June 5, 2023, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

become as ingrained in modern-day vernacular as mobile and personal computing two previous technological revolutions in technology that Apple played an integral role in creating. So what is spatial computing? It's a way to describe the intersection between the physical world around us and a virtual world fabricated by technology while enabling humans and machines to harmoniously manipulate objects and spaces. Accomplishing these tasks often incorporates elements of augmented reality, or AR, and artificial intelligence, or AI two subsets of technology that are helping to make spatial computing happen, said Cathy Hackl, a long-time industry consultant who is now running a startup working on apps for the Vision Pro.

"This is a pivotal moment," Hackl said. "Spatial computing will enable devices to understand the world in ways they never have been able to do before. It is going to change human to computer interaction, and eventually every interface whether it's a car or a watch will become spatial computing devices." In a sign of the excitement surrounding the Vision Pro, more than 600 newly designed apps will be available to use on the headset right away, according to Apple. The range of apps will include a wide selection of television networks, video streaming services (although Netflix and Google's YouTube are notably absent from the list) video games and various educational options. On the work side of things, videoconferencing service Zoom and other companies that provide online meeting tools have built apps for the Vision Pro, too. But the Vision Pro could expose yet another disturbing side of technology if its use of spatial computing is so compelling that people start seeing the world differently when they aren't wearing the headset and start to believe life is far more interesting when seen through through the goggles.

That scenario could worsen the screen addictions that have become endemic since the iPhone's debut and deepen the isolation that digital dependence tends to cultivate. □

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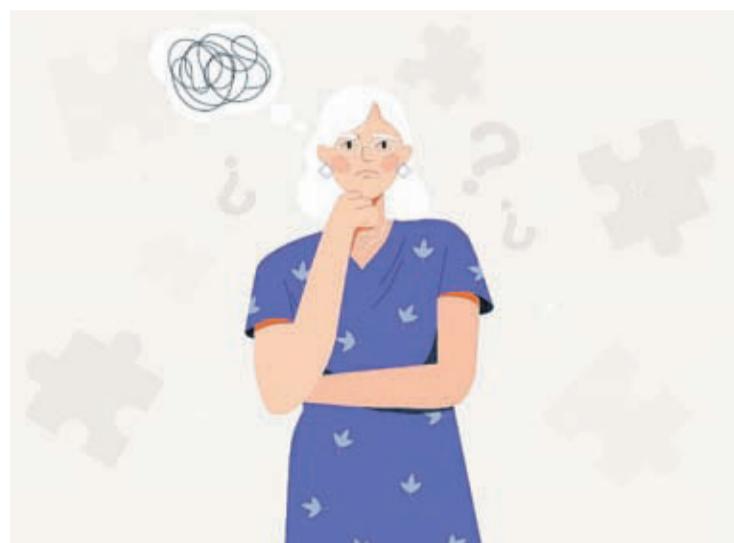
Dementia risk may nearly triple in first year after a stroke

American Heart Association News

Having a stroke may triple a person's risk for developing dementia within the following year, new research finds.

And while that risk begins to drop after the first 12 months, it remains elevated for up to 20 years, according to findings to be presented next week at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference in Phoenix. The research is considered preliminary until full results are published in a peer-reviewed journal.

"Our findings show that stroke survivors are uniquely susceptible to dementia," lead researcher Dr. Raed Joudi said in a news release. Joudi is an assistant professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and an investigator at the Population Health Research Institute, a joint institute of McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences. Roughly 610,000 people experience a first stroke each year, while 185,000 more have recurrent strokes, according to the American Heart Association. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates roughly 7 million people 65 and older in the U.S. had dementia in 2014, which could increase to nearly 14



Dementia risk may nearly triple in first year after a stroke.
Associated Press

million by 2060.

To determine post-stroke dementia risk, researchers analyzed data from hospital admissions, emergency department visits and pharmacies prescribing medications for dementia across Ontario. They identified 180,940 people who recently had either an ischemic stroke, caused by a blood clot, or one caused by bleeding in the brain, called an intracerebral hemorrhage. They matched the survivors to two control groups people in the general population who had neither a heart attack nor a stroke, and those who had had a heart attack but not a stroke. They tracked new cases of dementia in all groups for up to 20 years.

Over an average follow-up of almost six years, nearly 19% of people who had strokes developed dementia. Compared to the general population, dementia risk was 80% higher among those who had a stroke, with the risk jumping to nearly 150% higher in those who had a bleeding

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stroke. Risk was nearly 80% higher in stroke survivors compared to heart attack survivors. The risk of developing dementia was highest in the year immediately following a stroke. During the first 12 months, stroke survivors faced a nearly threefold increased risk for dementia, compared to their peers who did not have strokes. □



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Los Angeles Kings fire Todd McLellan, name Jim Hiller the interim coach for the rest of the season

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

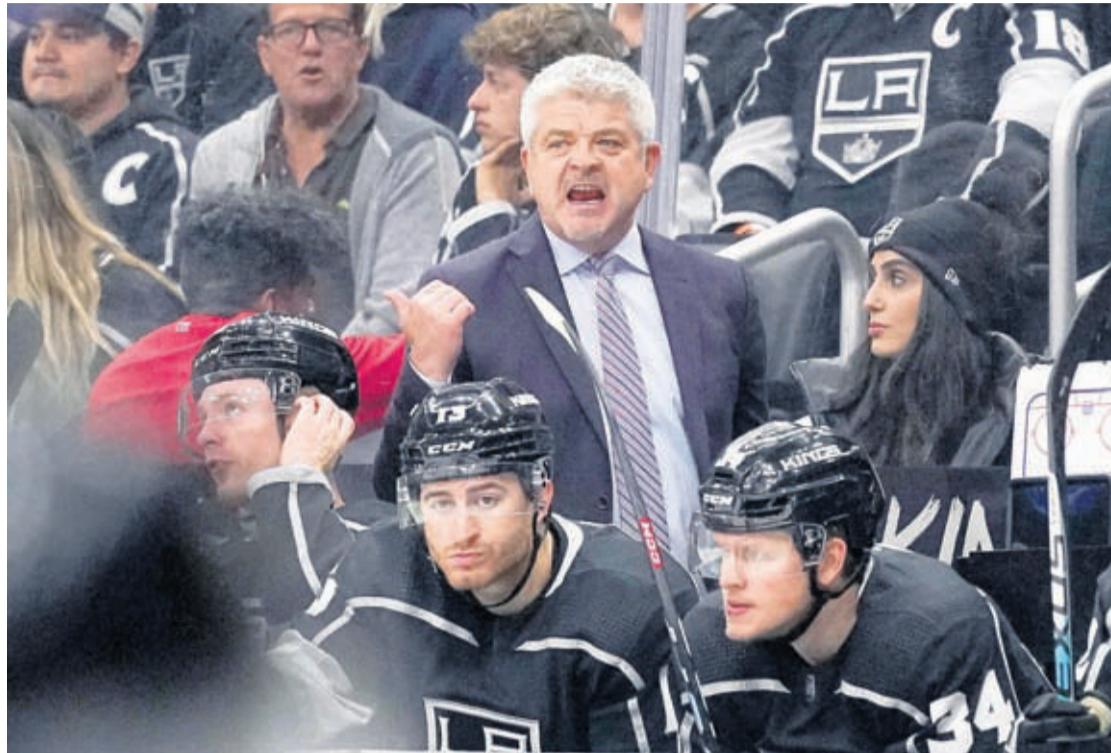
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Kings fired coach Todd McLellan on Friday and named Jim Hiller the interim coach for the rest of the season.

"We want to thank Todd for his hard work and dedication to the organization," vice president and general manager Rob Blake said in a statement. "He has done a tremendous job in moving us forward and making a positive impact on our group and in our community. This was not an easy decision, but we felt the change was necessary at this time."

Jim is a well-respected member of our staff who is familiar with our players. We are confident in his ability to lead our team effectively during this pivotal time."

Los Angeles went into the All-Star break with the first wild-card spot in the Western Conference, but only four points from falling out of a playoff spot.

The Kings had a 20-7-4 start



Los Angeles Kings head coach Todd McLellan gestures during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Winnipeg Jets Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

to the season, with the 44 points tied for the most in team history after 31 games. Since Dec. 28, they have gone 3-8-6. The three wins are tied for fewest in the league in that span and the 12 points are tied for the fifth worst.

McLellan had seemed re-

lieved that the Kings went into the break with a 4-2 win over Nashville on Wednesday.

"We still have a long way to go get our game back, but to go into the break feeling a little bit good about ourselves is a real good thing," he said after the game.

A big reason for the Kings' recent slump is lack of offense. They are averaging just 2.35 goals per game in their last 17 outings, third-worst in the league.

Hiller will be tasked with turning around a team whose top two offseason acquisitions have been

disappointing. Pierre Luc-Dubois was acquired from Winnipeg but has been shuffled up and down the four scoring lines and has only 10 goals and 20 points in 47 games.

Goaltender and free-agent signing Cam Talbot is the Kings' representative at the All-Star Game, but is 0-7-3 with a 3.86 goals-against average in his last 10 starts. Los Angeles has not won a playoff series since winning its second Stanley Cup in 2014. Captain Anze Kopitar is signed through the 2025-26 season, but is 36 years old. Defenseman Drew Doughty, another franchise stalwart, has his contract run through 2026-27.

While the Kings are one of the league's best road teams they won an NHL-record 11 straight away from Los Angeles to start the season they are one of the worst at home. Their 22 points in 23 games on home ice is tied for fourth-worst in the league.

McLellan was in his fifth season behind the Kings' bench. □

Adrian Beltré to have Rangers logo on baseball Hall of Fame plaque

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. (AP) — Adrián Beltré will have a Texas Rangers' logo on his baseball Hall of Fame plaque and Jim Leyland will not have any team emblem.

The hall made the announcement Friday, 10 days after Beltré was elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Leyland was elected in December by the contemporary era committee for managers, executives and umpires.

"I am grateful for the time I spent with all of my teams during my career," Beltré said in a statement issued by the hall. "Looking back, I played more years in Texas than anywhere else and I believe my time with

the Rangers represents the peak of my career, individually and from a team standpoint. But I could not have made this journey to

Cooperstown without the Los Angeles Dodgers, Seattle Mariners, Boston Red Sox, and their fans, and I am proud that each of the

teams I played with will be listed on my Hall of Fame plaque."

The decision on the logo was taken over by the hall ahead of the 2002 vote.

This year's other two inductees spent their entire major league careers with one team: Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer and Colorado third baseman Todd Helton.

Inductions will take place July 31.

Beltré, 44, hit .286 with 477 homers, 1,707 RBIs and 3,166 hits for four teams over 21 seasons. The third baseman spent eight seasons with Texas (2011-18), seven with the Los Angeles Dodgers (1998-2004), five with Seattle (2005-09) and one with Boston (2010).



Newly elected Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Adrián Beltré talks with reporters during a news conference Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Associated Press

Leyland, 79, led the Florida Marlins to a World Series title in 1997 and won 1,769 regular-season games over 22 seasons. He managed the Pirates for 11 seasons (1986-96), Florida for two (1997-98), Colorado for one (1999) and Detroit for eight (2006-13).

"I will always appreciate the teams that gave me the opportunity to be their major league manager," Leyland said in a statement issued by the hall. "We had some great moments with every one of those ballclubs, and I'm proud that they all will be mentioned on my Hall of Fame plaque. I want to make sure I show each of those teams respect, and this does that." □

Bill Belichick was passed over this coaching cycle but don't count his career over yet

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

Bill Belichick has won more Super Bowls than any coach and more games than everyone except Don Shula.

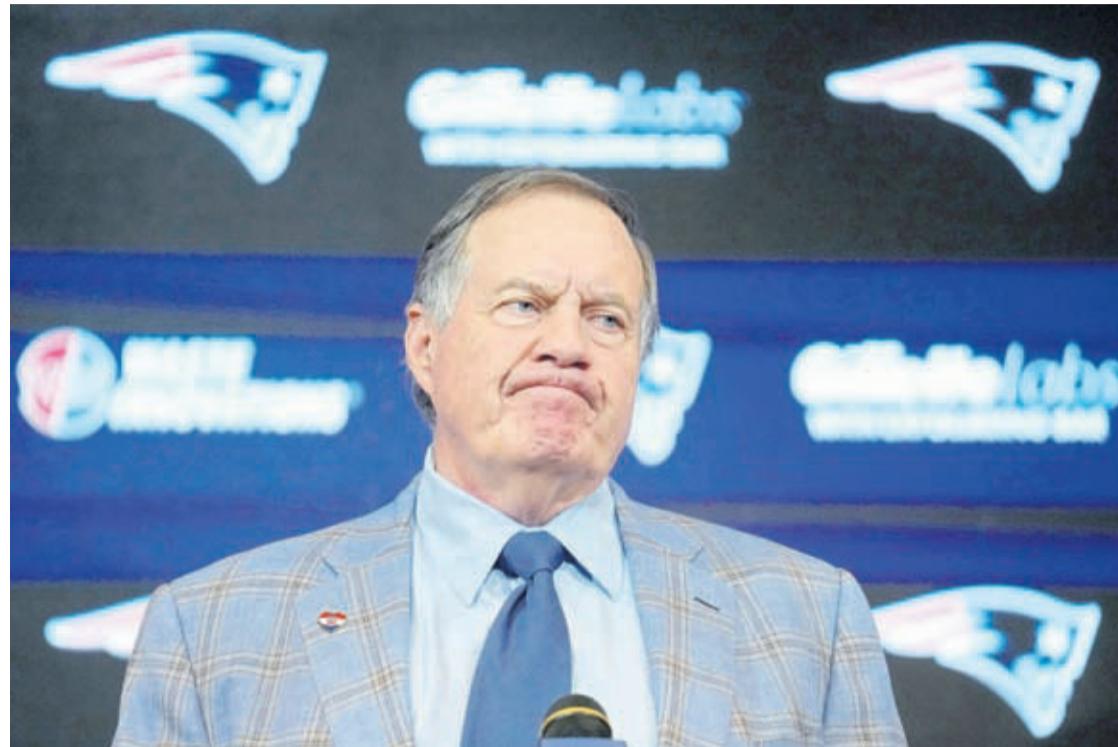
Still, he didn't land a new job.

An iconic coach who built a two-decade dynasty in New England and teamed with Tom Brady to lead the Patriots to six championships somehow got shut out in a hiring cycle that started with eight openings.

"I was surprised. I thought there would be quite a bit of interest in someone who has won that much and is available," Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy told the AP. "Coach Belichick is obviously a legend and a winner."

The last opening was filled Thursday when Washington turned to Dan Quinn, whose team blew a 28-3 lead against Belichick seven years ago as Brady led the Patriots to a 34-28 victory over the Atlanta Falcons in the greatest Super Bowl comeback in league history.

Belichick interviewed twice with Atlanta after parting from the Patriots but the Falcons hired Raheem Morris, who is 21-38 as a head coach.



Former New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick faces reporters during an NFL football news conference, Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, in Foxborough, Mass., to announce that he has agreed to part ways with the team.

Associated Press

One theory why Belichick didn't get hired is that he still wants full control over personnel decisions like Patriots owner Robert Kraft gave him in New England after he won his third Super Bowl.

Belichick said in his departure from the Patriots that he was open to a more traditional front-office structure in which a general manager had final say. But a person informed of Belichick's discussions with

the Falcons told the AP he still wanted full control. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the conversations were private. "Things are changing in the NFL," said ESPN analyst Tedy Bruschi, who was a Pro Bowl linebacker in New England under Belichick. "There's more talk about ownership and collaboration. It's becoming more organic where everybody is involved and everyone's voice is heard. I don't

know if you can win football games that way, honestly. Eventually, the head coach has to be able to say: 'I hear ya but this is the way we're gonna go.' I haven't talked to Bill recently but Bill's track record is great enough of not only picking players and winning games and winning championships."

Bruschi pointed out that criticism of Belichick as a GM focuses on recent draft failures while ignoring the

fact he picked and developed many star players who were integral to New England's unprecedented run of success.

Belichick drafted guys like Hall of Famer Richard Seymour, future Hall of Famer Rob Gronkowski, Dont'a Hightower, Devin McCourty, Vince Wilfork, Julian Edelman, Asante Samuel, Logan Mankins, Stephen Gostkowski, new Patriots coach Jerod Mayo and others. Of course, there was Brady, picked in the sixth round in 2000.

"This man still knows how to win, how to win a lot and how to win for a long time so I don't know how he doesn't have a job," Bruschi said.

Another knock against Belichick is his losing record without Brady.

The Patriots were 28-39 over the past four seasons after Brady went to Tampa Bay, won a Super Bowl and eventually retired. Overall, Belichick is 84-103 with only one playoff win without Brady over 29 seasons, including five in Cleveland.

"I don't think there's any question about what he would bring to the table and the benefit you would get from that kind of spark. He's going to win," Dungy said. □

Baker Mayfield helps NFC to early lead over AFC in revamped Pro Bowl Games

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Tampa Bay's Baker Mayfield beat Houston's C.J. Stroud in the Precision Passing skills challenge, helping the NFC build a 12-6 lead over the AFC on the opening night of the 2024 Pro Bowl Games.

The made-for-TV Pro Bowl Skills Show, aired Thursday night from a fieldhouse on the campus of the University of Central Florida, kicked off two days of competition that culminates Sunday with a seven-on-seven flag football game at Camping World Stadium. It's the second year for a revamped format that replaced the traditional Pro Bowl tackle football game last winter in Las Vegas. Opening night skills winners each earned three points that count toward their team's overall score.

Mayfield, a finalist for AP Comeback Player of the Year after leading the Buccaneers to their third consecutive NFC South division title, edged Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts and Geno Smith of the Seattle Seahawks for the right to face Stroud in the precision passing final.

Stroud, who led the Texans to the AFC South championship as a rookie, advanced over Miami's Tua Tagovailoa and Gardner Minshew of the Indianapolis Colts.

The NFC also posted wins in the Closest To The Pin golf accuracy challenge, Dodgeball and Snap Shots, which featured centers and long snappers aiming at targets.

The AFC picked up points by winning one of two Dodgeball games and also prevailing in High Stakes, which required players to catch punts from a JUGS machine. □



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield reacts during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

Weekly SPECIALS



| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  <p>Flanksteak</p> <p>WAS \$14.28 \$9.14 Per KG</p> |  <p>Pork Belly Slices</p> <p>WAS \$9.99 \$7.42 Per KG</p> |  <p>Sweet & Sour Chicken</p> <p>WAS \$9.99 \$8.28 Per KG</p> |  <p>Potato Salad</p> <p>WAS \$8.51 \$7.37 Per KG</p> |
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|  <p>Red Velvet Cake</p> <p>WAS \$2.57 \$1.99 Piece</p> |  <p>Sunny Delight Tangy Original 64oz</p> <p>WAS \$3.54 \$2.85 Each</p> |  <p>Kühne Kruidenazijn Salata 750gr</p> <p>WAS \$2.46 \$2.28 Each</p> |  <p>Suree Coconut Milk 400ml</p> <p>WAS \$2.05 \$1.54 Each</p> |  <p>Kraft BBQ Sauce Original 18oz</p> <p>WAS \$3.37 \$2.85 Each</p> |
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| DAIRY/FROZEN | HBC/GM | DELI/BAKERY |
|---|---|---|
|  <p>Arla Skimmed Milk 0.3% 1L</p> <p>WAS \$1.94 \$1.48 Each</p>  <p>Gwoon Ice Macs Amandel 6st</p> <p>WAS \$1.94 \$1.48 Each</p> |  <p>Nivea Body Lotion Enrich 16.9oz</p> <p>WAS \$13.48 \$11.42 Each</p>  <p>Gwoon Toilet Papier 2 loops 12st</p> <p>WAS \$4.62 \$4.22 Each</p> |  <p>Colby Jack Cheese</p> <p>WAS \$1.59 \$1.31 100 GR</p>  <p>Oven Roasted White Turkey Breast</p> <p>WAS \$2.17 \$1.88 100 GR</p> |

| DRY FOOD | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>EE Olive Salad Chopped 10oz</p> <p>WAS \$3.77 \$3.42 Each</p> |  <p>Goodbury Asparagus Medium Large 800gr</p> <p>WAS \$3.08 \$2.51 Each</p> |  <p>Fish Sauce Top Kitchen 750ml</p> <p>WAS \$2.45 \$2.17 Each</p> |  <p>Argo Corn Starch 16oz</p> <p>WAS \$3.14 \$2.57 Each</p> |  <p>Goodbury Olive Oil 100% 1L</p> <p>WAS \$14.28 \$12.57 Each</p> | |

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